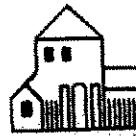


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# RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

Second Edition



RANDOM HOUSE  
NEW YORK

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## autochthon

140

## automatic tracking

graphic emulsion applied over a multicolored screen of minute starch grains dyed red, green, and blue-violet. [1905-10; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + CHROME]

**au-toch-thon** (ə tok'θən), n., pl. -thons, -tho-nas (-thə nəs'). 1. an aboriginal inhabitant. 2. Ecol. a native animal or plant of a region. 3. Geol. a geological formation formed in the region where found. Cf. allochthon. [1640-50; *Gk autochthon* of the land itself, equiv. to *auto-* AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *chthon* the earth, land, ground]

**au-toch-tho-nous** (ə tok'θə nəs), adj. 1. pertaining to autochthonous aborigines; indigenous (opposed to heterochthonous). 2. Pathol. a found in the part of the body in which it originates, as a cancerous lesion. b. found in a locality in which it originates, as an infectious disease. 3. Psychol. or pertaining to ideas that arise independently of the individual's own train of thought and seem instead to have some alien or external agency as their source. 4. Geol. (of rocks, minerals, etc.) formed in the region where found. Cf. allochthonous. Also, *auto-*tho-nal, *autochthonic* (ə tok'θən'ik). [1785-1805; AUTOCHTHON + -ous] —*au-toch-tho-nous·ly*, *au-toch-tho-nous·ness*, *n.*

**au-to-cide** (ə tō' sīd'), n. suicide by crashing the vehicle one is driving. [1965-70; AUTO-<sup>2</sup> + -CIDE]

**au-to-clave** (ə tō' klāv'), n., -claved, -claving. —n. 1. a heavy vessel for conducting chemical reactions under high pressure. 2. See pressure cooker. 3. Med. Bacteriol. an apparatus in which steam under pressure effects sterilization. —v.t. 4. to place in an autoclave. [1875-80; *F*, equiv. to *auto-* AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *clave* < L *clav-*, s. of *clavis* key and *clavis* nail]

**au-to-coil-lim-mation** (ə tō' kōl'ē māshən), n. Optics. the process used in an autocollimator. [AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + COLLIMATION]

**au-to-col-lim-mator** (ə tō' kōl'ē māt'ər), n. Optics. an instrument combining the functions of a telescope and collimator, for detecting and measuring very small deviations in a beam of light. [AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + COLLIMATOR]

**au-to-cor-re-la-tion** (ə tō' kōr'ē lā'shən, -kōr'-), n. Statistics. the correlation of an ordered series of observations with the same series displaced by the same number of terms. [1945-50; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + CORRELATION]

**au-to-court**, motel. [1930-35]

**au-to-cracy** (ə tok'rē əs), n., pl. -cies. 1. government in which one person has uncontrolled or unlimited authority over others; the government or power of an absolute monarch. 2. a nation, state, or community ruled by an autocrat. 3. unlimited authority, power, or influence of one person in any group. [1645-55; *Gk* *autokratēs* power over oneself, sole power, equiv. to *auto-* AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *kratēs* (of *kratos* power) + -ēs adj. suffix]

**au-to-crat** (ə tō' krāt'), n. 1. an absolute ruler, esp. a monarch who holds and exercises the powers of government as by inherent right, not subject to restrictions. 2. a person invested with or claiming to exercise absolute authority. 3. a person who behaves in an authoritarian manner; a domineering person. [1795-1805; < *Gk* *autokratēs* self-ruling, ruling alone, equiv. to *auto-* AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *kratēs* (of *kratos* power) + -ēs adj. suffix]

**au-to-cratic** (ə tō' krāt'ik), adj. 1. pertaining to or of the nature of autocracy or of an autocrat; absolute; autocratic government. 2. like an autocrat; tyrannical; despotic; domineering. Also, *au-to-crati·cal*. [1815-25; AUTOCRAT + -IC] —*au-to-crati·cal·ly*, *adv.*

**au-to-cross** (ə tō' kros'), n. Auto. gymkhana (def. 2). [1960-65; AUTO-<sup>2</sup> + (motor)cross]

**au-to-da-fé** (ə tō' dā fā'), n., pl. -das-das-fé. the public declaration of the judgment passed on persons tried in the courts of the Spanish Inquisition, followed by the execution by the civil authorities of the sentences imposed, esp. the burning of condemned heretics at the stake. [1715-25; < *Pr* *Act of the Xarre*, *as trans.* of *ML actus facti*]

**au-to-de-struct** (ə tō' dē strukt'), v.t. self-destruct. [1970-75] —*au-to-de-struct'ion*, n. —*au-to-de-struct'ive*, *adj.*

**au-to-di-al** (ə tō' dī'ēl, -dīl'), n. See under auto-dialer.

**au-to-di-al-er** (ə tō' dī'ēl' ī lər'), n. a telephone device that makes possible a service feature (auto-dial) whereby a call is automatically made in response to a brief input signal from the user, as the pressing of a button. Also called automatic dialer.

**au-to-di-dact** (ə tō' dī dākt', -di dākt'), n. a person who has learned a subject without the benefit of a teacher or formal education; a self-taught person. [1525-35; < *Gk* *autodidaktos* self-taught; *auto-* AUTO-<sup>1</sup>, *dactic*] —*au-to-di-dac·tic*, *adj.* —*au-to-di-dac·tic-ally*, *adv.*

**au-to-dyne** (ə tō' din'), n. Electronics. a type of heterodyne circuit containing a vacuum tube or transistor that acts simultaneously as a detector and oscillator. [1915-20; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + DYNE]

**au-to-e-clism** (ə tō' ē ēl'əm), n. Mycol. the development of the entire life cycle of a parasitic fungus on a single host or group of hosts. Also, *autoclism*. Also called *metecocism*. [AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *e-* (of *ec-*) + -clism] —*au-to-e-clous* (ə tō' ē lōōs), *adj.* —*au-to-e-clous·ly*, *adv.* —*au-to-e-clous·ness*, *n.*

**au-to-e-rot-i-c** (ə tō' ē rot'ik), adj. producing sexual excitement or pleasure without association with another person or external stimulation. [1895-1900; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *erotic*] —*au-to-e-rot'i·cal·ly*, *adv.*

**au-to-e-rot-i-cism** (ə tō' ē rot' ī ēl'əm), n. the arousal and satisfaction of sexual excitement within or

by oneself, as by masturbation. Also, *au-to-e-ro-tism* (ə tō' ē rō' tiz'əm). [1895-1900; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *eroticism*]

**au-to-e-ro-tism** (ə tō' ē rō' tiz'əm), adj. 1. having the ability to focus automatically with an autofocus lens; an autofocus camera. —n. 2. such an ability. Also, *au-to-e-ro-tism*. [1935-50; AUTO-<sup>2</sup> + *focus*]

**au-to-gam-my** (ə tō' ē gam'ē), n., pl. -gamy. 1. pollination of the ovules of a flower by its own pollen; self-fertilization (opposed to *heterogamy*). 2. conjugation in an individual organism by division of its nucleus into two parts that in turn reunite to form a zygote. [1875-80; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *-GAMY*] —*au-to-gam'ous*, *au-to-gam'ic* (ə tō' ē gam'ik)

**au-to-gen-ic** (ə tō' ē jēn'ik), adj. 1. self-generated. [1885-90; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *GENETIC*] —*au-to-gen'ic-ally*, *adv.*

**au-to-gen'ic train'ing** (ə tō' ē jēn'ik, ə tō' ē), a relaxation technique utilizing self-suggestion, breathing exercises, and meditation. [1960-65; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *-GENIC*]

**au-to-gene-ous** (ə tō' ē nē'əs), adj. 1. self-produced; self-generated. 2. Physiol. pertaining to substances generated in the body. 3. Metall. self-fused, without the addition of solder or the application of an adhesive; an autogenous weld between two pieces of the same metal. [1840-60; < *Gk* *autogenēs* self-produced (see AUTO-<sup>1</sup>, -GEN) + -ous] —*au-to-gene'ous-ly*, *adv.*

**au-to-giro** (ə tō' ē īrō'), n., pl. -ros. an aircraft with an unpowered, horizontally rotating propeller on a shaft above the fuselage that provides lift for the machine, with forward propulsion being provided by a conventional propeller; superseded in most applications by the helicopter. Also, *au-to-gy-ro*. Also called *gyrocopter*, *gyroplane*. [1920-25; *auto-* + *gyro*]

**au-to-graft** (ə tō' ē grāft'), n., *Surg.* a tissue or organ that is grafted into a new position on the body of the individual from which it was removed. Also called *autoplast*, *autotransplant*. Cf. *isograft*, *syngraft*, *xenograft*. [1915-20; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *graft*']

**au-to-graph** (ə tō' ē grāf', -grāf'), n. 1. a person's own signature; *He collects autographs of artists.* 2. something written in a person's own hand, as a manuscript or letter. —adj. 3. written by a person's own hand; an autograph letter. 4. containing autographs on autograph album. —v.t. 5. to write one's name on or in signs to autograph a book. 6. to write with one's own hand. [1860-80; < L *autographum*, n. use of *ne* of L *autographus* written with one's own hand < *Gk* *autographos*. See AUTO-<sup>1</sup>, -GRAPH] —*au-to-graphic* (ə tō' ē grāf'ik), *au-to-graphi·cal*, *au-to-graphi·cally*, *adv.*

**au-to-graphy** (ə tō' ē grāf'ē), n. 1. the act of writing by one's own hand. 2. autographs collectively. [1835-45; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *-GRAPHY*]

**au-to-harp** (ə tō' ē hārp'), Trademark. a zither having buttons that when depressed damp all strings except those to be sounded, the undamped strings being strummed to produce simple chords.

**au-to-hyp-no-sis** (ə tō' ē hip' nō'zis), n. self-induced hypnosis or hypnotic state. [1900-05; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *HYPNOSIS*] —*au-to-hyp-no-tic* (ə tō' ē hip' nō'zik), *adj.* —*au-to-hyp-no-ti·cal·ly*, *adv.*

**au-to-i-ign-i-tion** (ə tō' ē ig' nish'ən), n. 1. Auto. the spontaneous ignition of fuel when introduced into the combustion chamber of an internal-combustion engine, as a result either of glowing carbon in the chamber or of the heat of compression. 2. See spontaneous combustion. [AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + IGNITION]

**au-to-im-mu-nite**, *Chem.* the minimum temperature at which a substance will undergo spontaneous combustion. Also called *ignition point*, *ignition temperature*. [1715-25; *Pr* *act of the Xarre*, *as trans.* of *ML actus fidei*]

**au-to-in-de-struct** (ə tō' ē dē strukt'), v.t. self-destruct. [1970-75] —*au-to-in-de-struct'ion*, n. —*au-to-in-de-struct'ive*, *adj.*

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**au-to-in-fo-tox-i-sm** (ə tō' ē fō' tōks' ī ēl'əm), n. *Pathol.* a disease resulting from a disordered immune reaction in which antibodies are produced against one's own tissues, cells, or cell components. [1960-65; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *IMMUNE*] —*au-to-in-fo-tox'ic*, *adj.*

**au-to-in-fo-tox-i-za-tion** (ə tō' ē fō' tōks' ī ī zā'ēshən), n. *Pathol.* antibody production by an organism in response to and against any of its own tissues, cells, or cell components. Also called *auto-sensitization*. [1960-65; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *IMMUNIZATION*]

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**au-to-in-fec-tion** (ə tō' ē fēk' shən), n. *Pathol.* reinfection by a pathogen that is already in the body. 2. infection caused by transfer of a pathogen from one part of the body to another. [1900-05; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *INFECTION*]

**au-to-in-oc-u-la-tion** (ə tō' ē īk' yōō lā' shən), n. inoculation of a healthy part with an infective agent from a diseased part of the same body. [AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *INOCULATION*] —*au-to-in-oc-u-la-tion* (ə tō' ē īk' yōō lā' shəl), *n.*

**au-to-in-tox-i-za-tion** (ə tō' ē ītōks' ī ī zā'ēshən), n. *Pathol.* poisoning with toxic substances formed within the body, as during intestinal digestion. Also called *auto-toxism*, *auto-toxism*, *auto-toxicosis*. [1895-90; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *INTOXICATION*]

**au-to-in-tox-i-za-tion** (ə tō' ē ītōks' ī ī zā'ēshən), n. *Physics.* See *Auger effect* (AURO-<sup>1</sup> + *IONIZATION*)

**au-to-i-st** (ə tō' ē ist'), n. motorist (def. 1). [1900-05; Amer., AURO-<sup>1</sup> + *-IST*]

**au-to-kine-sis** (ə tō' ē ki' nē'sis), n. *Physiol.* voluntary movement. [1895-1900; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *KINESIS*] —*au-to-ki-net-* (ə tō' ē ki' net'ik), *adj.*

**au-to-ki-net-ic effect**, *Psychol.* apparent motion of a single point of light or a small object when presented on a dark field and observed continuously. Also called *au-to-kine-sic* [Hutton]. [1930-35]

**au-to-lift**, a device, often powered hydraulically, for

raising a vehicle so that the underside is accessible for inspection and repair.

**au-to-li-tho-gra-phy** (ə tō' ē lī thō'grāfē), n. a lithographic technique by which the artist draws or traces with a brush and pen directly on a stone or plate. [1875-80; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *LITHOGRAPHY*]

**au-to-load-er** (ə tō' ē lō'dər), n. a firearm with an automatic loading mechanism. [AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *LOADER*]

**au-to-load-ing** (ə tō' ē lō'ding), adj. semiautomatic (def. 2). [1920-25; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *LOAD* + *-ING*]

**au-to-log'ous** (ə tō' ē gōs), adj. from the same organism; an autologous graft. [1920-25; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *-LOGOUS* (see *auto-*, *-ous*), on the model of *homologous*]

**au-to-lot'-icus** (ə tō' ē lōt'ik), n. *Class. Myth.* the son of Hermes and Chione, and the grandfather of Odysseus. He possessed the power of changing the shape of whatever he stole and of making it and himself invisible.

**au-to-ly-sate** (ə tō' ē lī'āt), n. *Biochem.* a substance produced by autolysis. [1925-30; AUTOlys(1) + *-ATE*]

**au-to-ly-sin** (ə tō' ē lī'ēn), n. *Biochem.* the breakdown of plant or animal tissue by the action of enzymes contained in the tissue affected; self-digestion. [1900-05; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *LYSIN*] —*au-to-lyt'ic* (ə tō' ē lī'ēt'ik), adj.

**au-to-lyt-ic** (ə tō' ē lī'ēt'ik), adj. *Biochem.* the breakdown of plant or animal tissue by the action of enzymes contained in the tissue affected; self-digestion. [1900-05; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *LYSIN*] —*au-to-lyt'ic* (ə tō' ē lī'ēt'ik), adj.

**au-to-mak'er** (ə tō' ē mak'ər), n. an automobile manufacturer. [1900-05; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *MAKER*] —*au-to-mak'er*, *ing.*

**au-to-ma-nip-u-la-tion** (ə tō' ē mē'ēp yā māshən), n. physical stimulation of one's own genitals. [1960-65; AUTO-<sup>1</sup> + *MANIPULATION*]

**au-to-mat-** (ə tō' ē mat'), n. Trademark. a type of self-service restaurant in which customers obtain food from small compartments by depositing the required number of coins in slots so that the doors can be opened.

**au-to-ma-tis** (ə tō' ē māt'əs), n. a pl. of *automaton*.

**au-to-ma-tis-tic** (ə tō' ē māt'ik), adj. 1. to apply the principles of automation to (a mechanical process, industry, office, etc.). 2. to operate or control by automation. 3. to displace or make obsolete by automation (often fol. by *out*): *The unskilled jobs are going to be automated out.* 4. to install automatic procedures, as for manufacturing or servicing; follow or utilize the principles of automation: *Many banks have begun to automate.* [1960-65; back formation from AUTOMATION]

**au-to-ma-tis-tic-ble** (ə tō' ē māt'ik bēl'ē), adj.

**au-to-ma-tic-bank' machine'** (ə tō' ē māt'ik bānk'), an electronic banking machine that dispenses cash, accepts deposits, and performs other services when a customer inserts a plastic card and pushes the proper coded buttons. Abbrev. ATM. Also called *automated teller*, *automatic teller machine*, *cash machine*, *money machine*. [1980-85]

**au-to-ma-tic** (ə tō' ē māt'ik), adj. 1. having the capability of starting, operating, moving, etc., independently; an *automatic sprinkler system*. 2. *Physiol.* occurring independently of volition, as certain muscular actions; involuntary. 3. *done unconsciously or from force of habit; mechanical*; an *automatic application of the brakes*. 4. occurring spontaneously; *automatic enthusiasm*. 5. (of a firearm, pistol, etc.) utilizing the recoil or part of the force of the explosive to eject the spent cartridge shell, introduce a new cartridge, cock the arm, and fire it repeatedly. —n. 6. a machine that operates automatically. 7. See *automatic rifle*. 8. See *automatic pistol*. 9. Football: audible (def. 2). 10. See *automatic pilot*. 11. See *automatic transmission*. 12. an automobile equipped with automatic transmission. 13. *on automatic*, being operated or controlled by or as if by an automatic device. [1740-50; *auto-* *mat*(os) self-moving (see AUTOMATON) + -IC] —*au-to-ma-tic-ly* (ə tō' ē māt'ēl'ē), *adv.*

**au-to-ma-tic** (ə tō' ē māt'ik), adj. *Syn.* *involuntary, spontaneous* all mean not under the control of the will. That which is AUTOMATIC, however, is an invariable reaction to a fixed type of stimulus: *The patellar reflex is automatic.* That which is *ININVOLUNTARY* is an unexpected response that varies according to the occasion, circumstances, mood, etc.; an *involuntary cry of pain*. That which is *SPONTANEOUS* arises from immediate stimuli and usually involves an expression of strong feeling: a spontaneous roar of laughter.

**au-to-ma-tic da'ta proc'essing**. See *ADP*.

**au-to-ma-tic di'aler**, *auto-dialer*.

**au-to-ma-tic drive'**. See *automatic transmission*.

**au-to-ma-tic pil'ot**, *Aeron.* an airborne electronic control system that automatically maintains a preset heading and attitude. Also called *automatic*, *autopilot*, *gyro-pilot*, *robot*. [1915-20]

**au-to-ma-tic pis'tol**, a type of pistol having a mechanism that throws out the empty shell, puts in a new one, and prepares the pistol to be fired again. Also called *automatic*. [1875-80]

**au-to-ma-tic re'dial**, a telephone service feature whereby the last number dialed is automatically called again, either after a specified time or when activated by the user. Also called *redial*.

**au-to-ma-tic ri'fle**, a type of light machine gun capable of firing automatically or in single shots. Also called *automatic*, *machine rifle*. [1875-80]

**au-to-ma-tic ri'fle machine'**. See *automatic-teller machine*. Also called *au-to-ma-tic teller*.

**au-to-ma-tic track'ing**, *Electronics.* a radar tracking system in which an automatic device uses the echo signal from the tracked object to keep the radar con-

